(c) what are the criteria for allowing the import of the above item; and

(d) what are the names of the countries from which the above item is being imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Import Statistics have been compiled upto 1982-83. Information relating to quantum of timber imported during the last year i.e. 1985-86 is not available.

(b) The Deptt. of Forest, have not fixed any target of import of timber for the year 1986-87 .

(c) Import of Seatham Wood and all kinds of timber loge (whether round, ractangular or square) is allowed under OGL by Actual Users and others for stock and sale as per current import policy subject to prescribed conditions.

(d) As stated in reply to Part (a) above, information is not available.

Export of rice

1050. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantum of rice exported during the last year;

(b) what are the targets of export of rice fixed for the year 1986-87;

(c) what are the criteria for allowing the export of the above item:

(d) whether any subsidy is given thereon; if so, the details thereof;

(e) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof during 1985-86 and the estimated amount likely to be earned during 1986-87; and

(f) what are the names of the countries to which the above item is being exported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Export of basmati rice during April, 1985 to February, 1986 is estimated at 2.17 lakh tonnes. Export of non-basmati rice was permitted only with effect from 18th February, 1986. Export data for the period from 18-2-1896 to 31-3-1986 is yet to be compiled.

(b) The export of rice during 1986-87 would depend on availble exportable surpluses and international market situation.

(c) Export of rice has been permitted, in view of the comfortable stock position of rice in the country.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The value of export basmati rice during April 1985, February 1986 is estimated at Rs. 156.82 crores. Data for non-basmati rice export during 18-2-1986 to 31-3-86 is yet to be compiled. The value of export of rice during 1986-87 will depend upon the crop position; exportable surpluses likely to be available and the international trading conditions.

(f) U.S.S.R., Middle East and U. K. are the main markets for Indian rice.

Poor export gowth

1051. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the major causes of poor export growth of the country is lack of quality control of products for export and their rejection by the importing countries;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss of foreign exchange suffered by the country on this count; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.